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State Dept. review completed

NSC Briefing

CUBA

1. ~~Existing~~ anti-American sentiment among ~~many~~ Cubans is based

on the conviction that the US is providing arms and ammunition to the government ~~of Batista~~.

A. Probable reasons for kidnappings

B. Use of airfield near US base at Guantanamo helped give impression of ~~secret~~ on

A. Attacks ~~and~~ American-owned properties and threats of retaliation frequent

C. Communist Popular Socialist party exploiting situation and using it as argument for return of Guantanamo base to Cuba.

II. Rebels hope to force US recognition of Castro's strength, dramatize charges of US aid to Batista, and show latter incapable of controlling situation.

A. Kidnappings apparently well-planned and organized.

III. Cuban army, frustrated by lack of success against Castro control of mountains and rural areas, has made terroristic attacks and probably bombing raids against civilians. ~~SECRET~~

A. Some indications raids against American property and Cuban civilians made by army or Senator Rolando Masferrer's private gang posing as rebels in effort to discredit latter.

IV. Batista appears less receptive than before to suggestions of liberalization of his regime.

A. Determined to take whatever stringent action necessary to defeat Castro, though hopes not to disrupt normal life of Cubans, since he is ~~undone~~ criticized for inability to maintain order.

1. Claims continued emergency status works no hardships on law-abiding citizens.

2. Probably hopes for US military intervention to strengthen his position and help wipe out Castro once and for all.

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~~SECRET~~

- V Eusebio Mujal, powerful labor leader whose support has been important to Batista, told US Ambassador on 18 June that Batista determined to stay in presidency until term ends in February 1958 and nothing can be done to restore political normalcy until Batista goes.
- VI Intermittent reports of disaffection within Cuban armed forces, including high ranking officers, continue to be received. No known connection with Castro, however.